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The International Geography. By Seventy Authors. With 488 Illustrations. Edited by Hugh Robert Mill, D.Sc., Fellow or Honorary Corresponding Member of the Geographical Societies of London, Edinburgh, Paris, Berlin, Budapest, Amsterdam, Brisbane and Philadelphia. London: George Newnes Limited, MDCCCXCIX.

The plan of this book is set forth in the editor's preface. It is, in brief, a compact handbook of geography, each section being the work of a specialist or recognised authority of high standing, and never previously published.

Among the well-known authors represented are Dr. J. W. Gregory, Mr. E. G. Ravenstein, Sir John Murray, Mr. G. G. Chisholm, Dr. J. Scott Keltie, Prof. A. de Lapparent, Prof. A. Penck, Capt. E. de Vasconcellos, Mr. A. H. Keane, the Right Hon. J. Bryce, M.P., Prof. C. M. Kan, Prof. W. M. Davis, Sir Clements R. Markham, Prof. F. Nansen, Count Pfeil and the editor himself.

It is said on page 2 that

The structure of the region and its action on the race is the leading motive in the description of old countries; the reaction of the race on the region takes the first place in the description of new lands undergoing development; but in every case the groundwork is a true description of the country as it is to-day.

A book written by seventy authors of weight, all exempt from the human liability to error (p. 2), is not to be lightly taken in hand. No review will be attempted for the present, but one or two observations may be permitted.

The article on Spain is written by Dr. Theobald Fischer, professor of geography in the University of Marburg. This gentleman says of the Spaniards, on page 373:

... the unabated but hollow Spanish pride is now a serious drag to all progress ... and there is room to doubt whether Spain can continue to exist as a single country.

These remarks are not without interest as manifestations of Dr. Fischer's state of mind. They have no other value, and they are strangely indecent utterances to be printed in a volume of an international character.

What Dr. Nansen has to say of Greenland begins on page 1040 with these words:

Greenland is the largest and also in many respects the most interesting Arctic land. From 59° 45' N. it extends over more than twenty-three degrees of latitude to north of 83° N., its northern termination being still unknown.

It was, unfortunately, not Dr. Nansen but Mr. Robert E. Peary who, in 1892, discovered the northern limit of Greenland and established the fact that it was an island. This has been known for seven years.

Dr. Nansen's account of the Arctic Regions was written, possibly, during his long seclusion in the *Fram*, and he has not found time since his return to Norway to make himself acquainted with the work of other explorers. He has youth on his side, however, and may hope, with diligence and the cultivation of a right spirit, to arrive at a knowledge of several things which are now dark to him.

Il Ce-Kiang, Studio Geografico-Economico del Dott. Mario Carli. Roma, Forzani e C., Tipografi del Senato, 1899.

Dr. Carli devotes seventy pages of his book to an Historical Introduction on the relations of foreign States with the Chinese Empire in modern times. This introduction is well written and correct from the general European, which is for the most part the English, point of view. We are told on page 9 that

The first English man-of-war arrived at Macao in 1742, and the captain resolved not to leave China till he was allowed to supply himself with necessities. . . . His firmness had a splendid result, and he showed that only by striking them with terror can anything be obtained from the authorities of the Celestial Empire.

So with the Opium War. Doctor Carli states fairly the reasons which moved Taou-Kwang to prohibit the importation of the drug, but his conclusion reads like an extract from the London *Times*:

It would not be in conformity with the truth to admit, as many have done, that the exclusive purpose of the war on the part of England was, to open by force of arms a wide market for the great production of Indian opium. We are much more disposed to affirm that there was involved a question of principle and of general utility.

In whatever language it may be written, rhetoric of this kind is always out of place. It deceives nobody; not even the writer.

Che-Kiang is the smallest of the eighteen provinces of China. It lies between $31^{\circ} 16'$ and $27^{\circ} 17'$ N. Lat., and has an area of 37,000 square miles. Its capital is Hangchau, the southern terminus of the Grand Canal, and one of the ports opened to foreign commerce by the treaty of 1895 with Japan. Two of the so-called Treaty Ports, Ningpo and Wenchau, are also in this province, which was formerly one of the richest in the empire, with a population of 30,000,000. It suffered greatly during the Taiping rebellion, and its present population is estimated at 12,000,000.

The soil is fertile and well watered by rivers which are nearly all navigable. The minerals are coal, iron and salt, and there are great quarries of building-stone near Ningpo.

The bay of Sanmun (or in its Italian form, San-Men), which the Chinese Government is asked to lease to Italy as a strong point